



The Mini Page

Next Week:
Tongue
twisters!

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Founded by Betty Debnam



Mini Fact:

This painting, "The First Thanksgiving 1621," is by artist J.L.G. Ferris.

Working Together

image courtesy Library of Congress

Thanksgiving is coming up next week. Native Americans show their thanks to the Earth for providing food. They recognize a reciprocal (re-SIP-ro-cal) relationship: The Earth provides, and the people give back to the Earth.



This week, The Mini Page learns more about an early reciprocal relationship between native people and new arrivals.

diseases brought to the area by European explorers. The smaller community also faced danger from an unfriendly neighboring tribe.

When the Mayflower arrived and Pilgrims founded Plimoth Plantation in December 1620, they didn't have enough supplies to survive the winter. It was too late to plant crops, and they didn't have the tools needed to do so.

Helping each other

The Wampanoag saw an opportunity to make a trade. They would help the Pilgrims survive, and the Pilgrims would help the natives in case of an attack.



Tisquantum

One man who knew how to speak English, Tisquantum, taught the Pilgrims to hunt and fish and to plant and raise native crops.

The Harvest Home

By the following fall, 1621, the Pilgrims had a successful harvest. They decided to celebrate with a festival they may have participated in as children in Europe.

The Harvest Home lasted for three days. It included feasts of food and drink, competitive sporting events and shooting of muskets, or guns.

The Europeans killed wild ducks, geese and turkey for the feast. The Native Americans provided five deer, which were roasted. Experts believe the Harvest Home festival was more of a celebration than a time of giving thanks.

Respect for food

Native American traditions hold great respect for the plants and animals that support them. Some call plants the "hair of Mother Earth." Whether they grew the food themselves or hunted animals to eat, early native people were careful not to waste any part of what they took.

For example, corn husks were used to make shoes, bags and dolls for children. Bison that were hunted for meat also provided skins for clothing, blankets and shelter, along with bones for tools and ceremonial objects.



Image courtesy Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Museum

Giving thanks

Part of Native American culture is giving thanks each time the Earth provides for humans' needs. In fact, the Haudenosaunee (HA-deh-no-SHO-nee) start each day with a Thanksgiving Address. It expresses thanks for other people, the Earth, the moon, animals, the sun, water, air and more.

Corn is known as one of the Three Sisters — along with beans and squash, foods important to Native Americans.



From the book "Voices from Colonial America: Massachusetts," published by the National Geographic Society © 2007, National Geographic Books.

The green area shows the Wampanoag's territory in 1620.

Native challenges

In the region that includes what is now Rhode Island and Massachusetts, thousands of Wampanoag (wahm-puh-NO-ag) people lived in the early 1600s.

But between 1616 and 1620, about three-fourths of the Wampanoag people died from

Resources



On the Web:

- s.si.edu/3C17aZ

At the library:

- "1621: A New Look at Thanksgiving" by Catherine O'Neill Grace and Margaret M. Bruchac
- "Wampanoag" by Katie Lajiness

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Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of the Wampanoag are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



- BEANS, BISON, CORN,
- DISEASE, EARTH,
- FOOD, HARVEST, HOME,
- MUSKET, NATIVE,
- PLIMOTH, PROVIDE,
- RECIPROCAL, SQUASH,
- THANKSGIVING,
- TISQUANTUM, TRIBE,
- WAMPANOAG, WASTE.

W A S T E O P P L I M O T H Y
 Q W S K G A O N A P M A W I T
 M B E A N S N O S I B I E X E
 D I M U T N A U Q S I T B D K
 G N I V I G S K N A H T I I S
 E C O R N T S E V R A H R S U
 A K R P P R O V I D E Z T E M
 R L A C O R P I C E R D E A V
 T E V I T A N E X D O O F S P
 H H O M E I H S A U Q S B E N

Cook's Corner

A (Avocado) B (Bean) C (Corn) Salad

You'll need:

- 1 ripe avocado, diced
- 2 (15-ounce) cans black beans, rinsed and drained
- 2 (15 1/4-ounce) cans corn, drained
- 1 medium bell pepper (any color), diced

- 1/4 cup fresh cilantro
- juice from one small lime
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- sprinkle of salt to taste



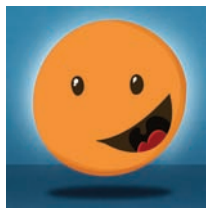
* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

What to do:

1. Combine all vegetables and beans in large bowl.
2. Stir in lime juice and seasonings to blend.
3. Chill for 1 hour. Serve alone or with tortilla chips as a dip. Serves 10 to 12.

7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.



1. feeling when you're scared (4) _____
2. curved yellow fruit (6) _____
3. crossing for trains (8) _____
4. what your shirt is made of (5) _____
5. not very wide (6) _____
6. how water leaves the sink (5) _____
7. instrument you blow into (5) _____

AD	NA	ROW	AR
OTH	DRA	RAI	FL
UTE	FE	CL	IN
NA	LRO	NAR	BA

Answers: fear, banana, railroad, cloth, narrow, drain, flute.

Mini Jokes



- Tom:** When is it fun to serve a rubber turkey?
Tia: At Pranksgiving!

Eco Note



German and Chinese researchers say they know the approximate number of ants currently crawling across the planet. Based on data from 489 ant studies, they determined there are 20 quadrillion individual ants, with a dry weight far heavier than that of all the wild birds and mammals on the planet combined. (The number 20 quadrillion is 20 followed by 15 zeros.) This means that for every human, there are nearly 2.5 million ants scurrying, eating and breeding across the landscape.

adapted with permission from Earthweek.com

For later:

Look in your newspaper for articles about Thanksgiving.

Teachers: Follow and interact with The Mini Page on Facebook!



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